



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
GOVERNOR



MATTHEW RODRIGUEZ  
SECRETARY FOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

**State Water Resources Control Board**  
Division of Drinking Water

November 4, 2016

Certified Mail  
7012 3460 0003 1112 8335

Duane Whitelaw, General Manager  
North Tahoe PUD – Carnelian Woods  
P.O. Box 139  
Tahoe Vista, CA 96148

TRANSMITTAL OF CITATION NO. 01-02-16C-026

Dear Mr. Whitelaw:

The State Water Resources Control Board (Board) Division of Drinking Water has issued the North Tahoe Public Utilities District – Carnelian Woods water system a citation, which is attached.

If you have any questions, please contact Michael Burgess at (530) 224-6506 or me at (530) 224-4800.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael J. McNamara".

Michael J. McNamara, P.E.  
Lassen District Engineer  
DRINKING WATER FIELD  
OPERATIONS BRANCH

Enclosures

cc: Richard L. Hinrichs, Chief, DDW-Northern California Section  
Placer County Department of Environmental Health

3110023/Enforcement  
10032016 Cit Ltr/mtb

FELICIA MARCUS, CHAIR | THOMAS HOWARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

364 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 101, Redding, CA 96002 | [www.waterboards.ca.gov](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov)

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA**  
**WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD**  
**DIVISION OF DRINKING WATER**

**TO:** North Tahoe PUD – Carnelian Woods  
P.O. Box 139  
Tahoe Vista, CA 96148

**Attn:** Mr. Duane Whitelaw, General Manager

**CITATION FOR VIOLATION OF**  
**CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 22,**  
**SECTIONS 64426 and 64426.1**

**WATER SYSTEM NO. 3110023**  
**CITATION NO. 01-02-16C-026**  
**Issued on November 4, 2016**

Section 116650 of the California Health and Safety Code authorizes the issuance of a citation to a public water system for violation of the California Safe Drinking Water Act (Health and Safety Code, Division 104, Part 12, Chapter 4, commencing with Section 116270) (hereinafter "California SDWA"), or any regulation, standard, permit or order issued or adopted thereunder.

The State Water Resources Control Board (hereinafter "Board"), acting by and through its Division of Drinking Water (hereinafter "Division") and the Deputy Director for the Division

(hereinafter "Deputy Director"), hereby issues a citation to North Tahoe Public Utilities District - Carnelian Woods (hereinafter, District) (P.O. Box 139, Tahoe Vista, CA 96148) for violation of Title 22, Sections 64426 and 64426.1 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR).

#### **APPLICABLE AUTHORITIES**

##### **Section 116650 of California Health and Safety Code provides:**

(a) If the department determines that a public water system is in violation of this chapter or any regulation, permit, standard, citation, or order issued or adopted thereunder, the department may issue a citation to the public water system. The citation shall be served upon the public water system personally or by certified mail. Service shall be deemed effective as of the date of personal service or the date of receipt of the certified mail. If a person to whom a citation is directed refuses to accept delivery of the certified mail, the date of service shall be deemed to be the date of mailing.

(b) Each citation shall be in writing and shall describe the nature of the violation or violations, including a reference to the statutory provision, standard, order, citation, permit, or regulation alleged to have been violated.

(c) A citation may specify a date for elimination or correction of the condition constituting the violation.

(d) A citation may include the assessment of a penalty as specified in subdivision (e).

(e) The department may assess a penalty in an amount not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per day for each day that a violation occurred, and for each day that a violation continues to occur. A separate penalty may be assessed for each violation.



1 **Title 22, Section 64426 of the California Code of Regulations states:**

2 (a) Any of the following criteria shall indicate a possible significant rise in bacterial count:

3 (1) A system collecting at least 40 samples per month has a total coliform-positive  
4 routine sample followed by two total coliform-positive repeat samples in the repeat sample  
5 set;

6 (2) A system has a sample which is positive for fecal coliform or *E. coli*; or

7 (3) A system fails the total coliform Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) as defined in  
8 Section 64426.1.

9 (b) When the coliform levels specified in subsection (a) are reached or exceeded, the  
10 water supplier shall:

11 (1) Contact the State Board by the end of the day on which the system is notified of  
12 the test result or the system determines that it has exceeded the MCL, unless the notification  
13 or determination occurs after the State Board office is closed, in which case the supplier shall  
14 notify the State Board within 24 hours; and

15 (2) Submit to the State Board information on the current status of physical works and  
16 operating procedures which may have caused the elevated bacteriological findings, or any  
17 information on community illness suspected of being waterborne. This shall include, but not  
18 be limited to:

19 (A) Current operating procedures that are or could potentially be related to the  
20 increase in bacterial count;

21 (B) Any interruptions in the treatment process;

22 (C) System pressure loss to less than 5 psi;

23 (D) Vandalism and/or unauthorized access to facilities;

24 (E) Physical evidence indicating bacteriological contamination of facilities;

1 (F) Analytical results of any additional samples collected, including source  
2 samples;

3 (G) Community illness suspected of being waterborne; and

4 (H) Records of the investigation and any action taken.

5 (c) Upon receiving notification from the State Board of a significant rise in bacterial count,  
6 the water supplier shall implement the emergency notification plan required by Section  
7 116460, Health and Safety Code.

8

9 **Title 22, Section 64426.1 of the California Code of Regulations provides in relevant part:**

10 (b) A public water system is in violation of the total coliform MCL [maximum  
11 contaminant level] when any of the following occurs:

12 (1) For a public water system which collects at least 40 samples per month,  
13 more than 5.0 percent of the samples collected during any month are total  
14 coliform-positive; or

15 (2) For a public water system which collects fewer than 40 samples per month,  
16 more than one sample collected during any month is total coliform-positive;  
17 or

18 (3) Any repeat sample is fecal coliform-positive or E. coli-positive; or

19 (4) Any repeat sample following a fecal coliform-positive or E. coli-positive  
20 routine sample is total coliform-positive.

21

22

23

24

**STATEMENT OF FACTS**

The North Tahoe PUD – Carnelian Woods water system is classified as a community water system. The District serves 266 active service connections on the west shore of Lake Tahoe, north of Tahoe City. The water system is currently served by a single active well source, Well 01, which supplies water to the Lower Zone. A booster station then supplies water from the Lower Zone to the Upper Zone. A 0.5-million gallon (MG) capacity welded steel storage tank provides storage in the Lower Zone, while a separate 0.5-MG capacity welded steel storage tank provides storage in the Upper Zone. The District does not provide any treatment of the water supplied to its customers.

On Tuesday, September 20, 2016, the District collected a routine bacteriological sample from the distribution system, for analysis at Cranmer Engineering: Analytical Laboratory. On Wednesday, September 21, 2016, the lab notified the District that the routine sample had tested positive for total coliform bacteria but absent for E. coli. The District notified the Division of the total coliform positive results and collected four repeat samples, including one sample from Well 01, on September 21, 2016, and delivered the samples to the Tahoe Truckee Sanitation Agency (TTSA) for testing.

On Thursday, September 22, 2016, the District notified the Division that the lab had rejected the four repeat samples collected on September 21, 2016, and that they were collecting four more repeat samples that morning. After speaking with the TTSA Lab Director, Laura Mader, the Division agreed to the collection of new repeat samples that morning, still within 24 hours of the routine sample result report. On September 23, 2016, the Division received a copy of a letter from TTSA Lab that stated “the samples collected by NTPUD were delivered to the laboratory in

1 bottles other than the ones we supply for testing purposes. After review of our procedures we  
2 determined that the bacterial testing could not be completed because the bottles could not be  
3 guaranteed to be sterile, the efficacy of the dechlorinating agent was unknown, and because the  
4 opaqueness of the bottles made it too difficult to determine color change or fluorescence.”

5  
6 Of the four repeat samples collected on September 22, 2016, the samples collected from the  
7 routine site at 360 Olive Street and the repeat site at 380 Olive Street both tested positive for  
8 total coliform bacteria. All four samples tested absent for E. coli. On September 23, 2016, the  
9 District reported the results to the Division and after discussion with the Division, stated that  
10 they would begin continuous chlorination at Well 01 and hand dose the District's Lower Tank  
11 with sodium hypochlorite, while isolating the Upper Pressure Zone from the Lower Pressure  
12 Zone where all of the total coliform positive samples had been collected. The District reported  
13 flushing the distribution system at Center Street and Olive Street. On September 23, 2016, the  
14 District was directed by email to conduct an assessment of the water system for potential  
15 causes of the total coliform positive samples and was provided with a Positive Total Coliform  
16 Investigation form to assist them.

17  
18 On September 23, 2016, five additional samples were collected from the repeat sample sites in  
19 the Lower Pressure Zone, the well source, and the routine sample site in the Upper Pressure  
20 Zone. Chlorine was measured in the three samples collected from the Lower Pressure Zone.  
21 All five samples tested absent for total coliform bacteria. The District discontinued chlorination  
22 of the system on September 24, 2016, after receiving these sample results.

23  
24 The District collected five routine samples during the month of October 2016; two on October  
25 11, 2016, one on October 18, 2016, and two on October 25, 2016. The District reported that



1 there was no measurable chlorine residual in the system when the samples were collected. All  
2 five samples tested absent for total coliform bacteria indicating that the problem had been  
3 corrected.

4  
5 On October 18, 2016, the Division received a copy of the District's completed "Positive Total  
6 Coliform Investigation Form." The District was unable to determine a probable cause of the total  
7 coliform positive samples at this time. The District is investigating the feasibility of chlorinating  
8 and flushing the system annually to prevent biofilm formation in the storage tank and water  
9 mains.

#### 10 11 DETERMINATIONS

12  
13 The Division has determined that the District violated Title 22, Section 64426.1(b)(2) of the  
14 California Code of Regulations during September 2016. Specifically, the District exceeded the  
15 total coliform maximum contaminant level during the month of September 2016.

#### 16 17 18 DIRECTIVES

19  
20 The District is hereby directed to take the following actions:

- 21  
22 1. Comply with Title 22, Section 64426.1 of the California Code of Regulations during all  
23 future monthly monitoring periods.  
24



2. Within 30 days of the issuance of this Citation, but in no case later than **December 4, 2016**, notify all persons served by the North Tahoe PUD – Carnelian Woods system of the MCL violation as required by Title 22, Sections 64463.4 and 64465 of the CCR. Notification shall be completed by posting the notice contained in Attachment 'A' on the District's website and by hand delivery or direct mail of the notice to all customers served by the North Tahoe PUD – Carnelian Woods water system. No changes shall be made to Attachment 'A' unless approved by the Division.

4. Complete and return Attachment 'B' entitled "Certification of Completion of Public Notification" by **December 14, 2016**. A copy of the notification that was provided to users due to the total coliform MCL exceedance in September 2016 shall be included with the form.

Unless otherwise noted, all documents required under this Citation shall be submitted to the Board at the following address:

Michael J. McNamara, P. E.  
Lassen District Engineer  
Division of Drinking Water  
State Water Resources Control Board  
364 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 101  
Redding, CA 96002

As used in this Citation, the date of issuance shall be the date of this Citation; and the date of service shall be the date of service of this Citation, personal or by certified mail, on the water system.

1 Nothing in this Citation relieves the District of its obligation to meet the requirements of the  
2 California SDWA or any regulation, permit, standard or order issued or adopted thereunder.  
3 The Division reserves the right to make such modifications to this Citation, as it may deem  
4 necessary to protect public health and safety. Such modifications may be issued as  
5 amendments to this Citation and shall be effective upon issuance.

6  
7 **FURTHER ENFORCEMENT ACTION**  
8

9 The California SDWA authorizes the Board to: issue a citation with assessment of administrative  
10 penalties to a public water system for violation or continued violation of the requirements of the  
11 California SDWA or any regulation, permit, standard, citation, or order issued or adopted  
12 thereunder including, but not limited to, failure to correct a violation identified in a citation or  
13 compliance order. The California SDWA also authorizes the Board to take action to suspend or  
14 revoke a permit that has been issued to a public water system if the system has violated  
15 applicable law or regulations or has failed to comply with an order of the Board; and to petition  
16 the superior court to take various enforcement measures against a public water system that has  
17 failed to comply with or violates an order of the Board. The Board does not waive any further  
18 enforcement action by issuance of this citation.

19  
20  
21 **PARTIES BOUND**  
22

23 This Citation shall apply to and be binding upon the District, its officers, directors, shareholders,  
24 agents, employees, contractors, successors, and assignees.  
25

SEVERABILITY

The Directives of this Citation are severable, and the District shall comply with each and every provision thereof, notwithstanding the effectiveness of any other provision.

11-04-2016

Date

Michael J. McNamara

Michael J. McNamara, P.E.

Lassen District Engineer

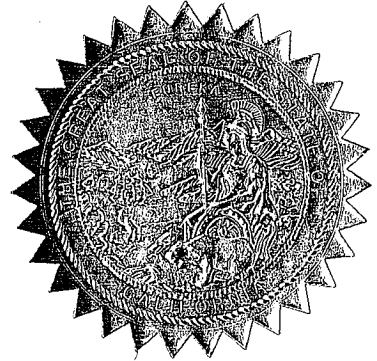
Division of Drinking Water

State Water Resources Control Board

## Attachments:

'A' Public Notice

'B' Certification of Completion of Public Notification



CERTIFIED MAIL 7012 3460 0003 1112 8335

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable.

Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

### North Tahoe PUD – Carnelian Woods Had Levels of Coliform Bacteria Above the Drinking Water Standard

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what you should do, what happened, and what we did to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for drinking water contaminants. We took 10 samples to test for the presence of coliform bacteria during September 2016. Three of those samples showed the presence of total coliform bacteria. The standard is that no more than one sample per month may show the presence of coliform bacteria.

#### What should I do?

- **You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions.**
- This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. Total coliform bacteria are generally not harmful themselves. *Coliforms are bacteria which are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.*
- Usually, coliforms are a sign that there could be a problem with the system's distribution system (pipes). Whenever we detect coliform bacteria in any sample, we do follow-up testing to see if other bacteria of greater concern, such as fecal coliform or *E. coli*, are present. **We did not find any of these bacteria in our subsequent testing, and further testing shows that this problem has been resolved.**
- People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1(800) 426-4791.
- If you have other health issues concerning the consumption of this water, you may wish to consult your doctor.

## **What happened? What was done?**

A routine sample collected on September 20, 2016, tested positive for total coliform bacteria but absent for E. coli. The lab notified the North Tahoe Public Utilities District (District) of this results on September 21, 2016, following the completion of the test, and the District collected four repeat samples on September 22, 2016, including a sample from our active well source. Two repeat samples tested positive for total coliform bacteria, and the District began chlorinating the water and flushing the water mains. On September 23, 2016, five additional samples were collected. The District was notified by the lab that all five samples tested absent for total coliform bacteria, indicating that the problem had been corrected.

For more information, please contact Ken Fischer at 530-553-5450 or P.O. Box 139 Tahoe Vista, CA 96148

*Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this public notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.*

## **Secondary Notification Requirements**

Upon receipt of notification from a person operating a public water system, the following notification must be given within 10 days [Health and Safety Code Section 116450(g)]:

- RESIDENTIAL RENTAL PROPERTY OWNERS OR MANAGERS (including nursing homes and care facilities): Must notify tenants.
- BUSINESS PROPERTY OWNERS, MANAGERS, OR OPERATORS: Must notify employees of businesses located on the property.

This notice is being sent to you by North Tahoe PUD – Carnelian Woods

State Water System ID#: 3110023 Date distributed: \_\_\_\_\_

## CERTIFICATION OF COMPLETION OF PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

**Public Water System Name** North Tahoe PUD – Carnelian Woods

Public Water System No. 3110023

\_\_\_\_\_The notice was published in the local newspaper on \_\_\_\_\_. A copy of the newspaper notice is attached.

\_\_\_\_\_The notice was mailed to users on \_\_\_\_\_. A copy of the notice is attached.

\_\_\_\_\_ The notice was hand delivered to water customers on \_\_\_\_\_. A copy of the notice is attached.

The attached notice was posted in the following conspicuous places:

---

For this method, provide the date (or dates) that the notice was posted \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that the above information is factual.

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_